

October 1999

the WATER *Connection*

ON THE WATER FRONT



Read This ...

If You Are Worried Our City Might Run Out Of Water!

Tucson Water has a plan for our water future – solutions to the ever more threatening water crisis. As we all now know

- *Our water table is dropping much faster than nature can renew it, causing environmental damage and earth subsidence.*
- *New medical evidence has shown the idea of "pristine" groundwater here in Tucson is not true.*
- *The costs to pump water from deeper in the ground are rising steeply and the quality of the water we pump is declining.*

None of these issues need be disastrous to the future of our community. But if we don't keep all of our water options open, we will have more and more problems delivering enough clean, safe, and affordable water to supply our customers.

You deserve to have enough water – water you are confident is safe. We will continue to supply that to you.

Our blended water program is proving that we can use groundwater that has been naturally mixed with recharged Colorado River water in our homes. We can use this water without experiencing the problems that came with direct delivery of unblended Colorado River water in the early 1990's. At that time, Tucson Water made serious

mistakes when delivering unblended CAP water and the individuals who were responsible no longer work for this utility. My new management team and I assure you that such mistakes will not be a part of our future.

The blended water is a big part of the solution to our water problems – about 20 billion gallons of this blended water can be added to our water distribution system, to mix with the groundwater we use today. Using the blend in this way will allow us to shut down wells in central Tucson and let nature start renewing our water table.

Yes, it's a big part of the solution, but it's not the whole answer. Other things need to be done too.

- We need to develop ways to clean groundwater that has contaminants in it that exceed new federal standards.*
- We need to continue to expand the use of our reclaimed wastewater for golf courses, parks and other turfgrass areas (13 golf courses now use this water – I want them all to use it).*
- We need to continue operating and expanding our recharge projects for Colorado River water,*

and

- We need to use blended water so we can shut down groundwater wells in central Tucson where overpumping is threatening to cause serious subsidence problems and damage to our environment.*

Tucson Water can do and is doing all of these things to ensure our community's future. This new team of professionals knows how to deliver both groundwater and surface water without making the kind of mistakes that were made by those who delivered CAP water in 1992. We know how to use reclaimed wastewater wisely to supplement our groundwater supply. Perhaps most important, we have the knowledge and experience to continue to supply you and your family with safe, clean, affordable water and to use our various water resources to make sure we don't run out of water. We have families here and we all drink this water too. You can be confident that we will only deliver the very best water to you.

*David V. Modeer
Director, Tucson Water*

Natural Blending Prevents Problems

Neighbors Show That "The Blend" Could Solve Our Water Shortages

We've talked about it for years, but with a professional, experienced water expert leading the way, a solution has been developed to our water problems. Tucson Water Director David Modeer has more than 26 years of experience in the water industry. Working with the new team of professionals at Tucson Water, David has overseen development of this solution to our long-standing water problems.

By blending groundwater and recharged Colorado River water, we can add enough new water to our water system to allow us to shut down wells in central



Tucson that are threatening our environment. Our dropping water table is also endangering our community by causing earth subsidence. The blending, combined with our water main replacements and the other information we've gained through research, assures that we can deliver this kind of water to you without the kinds of problems that occurred with unblended CAP water in the early 1990's.

Sue and Sonny Barrett discuss the blended water program with Tucson Water Director Dave Modeer.

The volunteer neighbors in the first of our blended water demonstration neighborhoods have recently finished using the blend for 90 days. Some of their comments are printed below.

"Considering the problems that Tucson is having with water now, we should reevaluate the usage of Colorado River water with the blended method because the quality of the water is very good – better than what we were getting before."

David and Jeanne Wood

""I wish I had the blended water back. On a scale from one to ten, I'd give it a nine. I found no problems with the taste or the plumbing."

Sonny Barrett

"I want the blended water back. It tastes better than ground water."

Irving Wilson

"We have to find another alternative to using groundwater. We think this is good – it's good water – tastes great."

John and Nicky Carr and children Thomas and Jenna

"My concerns at first were for the health of my family. The water proved to taste really good. I was pleased with everything about it. We were kept up to date with information and the program was well organized."

Patty Way and son Darren

CAP Recharge Projects Take A Lot Of Water

Tucson Water's large recharge projects in Avra Valley and near Pima Mine Road south of town are proving that by carefully selecting the best recharge locations, we can successfully store Colorado River water underground for future use. Since October 1997, Tucson Water has recharged more than 33,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water at these locations. We will be expanding these projects over the next few years, and by 2003, we'll be recharging 90,000 acre-feet of water each year. That's nearly 90% of our total water use! For more information, or if you'd like to take a tour of a recharge project and see how it works, call us at 791-4331.

Taste The New Blend And Let Us Know What You Think

The Ambassador Neighborhoods Program is proving that blended water is both usable and acceptable in our homes. Most people like it better than the groundwater they currently receive. But Tucson Water isn't counting on just four volunteer neighborhoods to speak for all our customers. We've bottled this same water so you can try it yourself.



Quench your thirst with the blend at one of Tucson Water's 5-gallon water coolers found at many city libraries, the Reid Park Zoo, City Hall, Park Mall, and most City Council offices. For a list of locations, call us at 791-5080 ext. 1234 or look at our web site at <http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/water/ambassador/>. You'll also find the blend in 16-ounce sport bottles at many special events around Tucson.

Automate Your Bill Payment

for Maximum Convenience

Join the thousands of Tucson Water customers who pay their water, sewer, and solid waste bills the easy way using our automated Bill Payment Service. It's an easy and convenient way to ensure your bills are paid automatically each month without having to mail in a check. If you have a valid checking or savings account, you're qualified to sign up for this time-saving service. For more information, call one of our Customer Service Representatives at 791-3242, or [follow this link](#) for a printable version of the application.



Tucson Water at Work Open House!!

You are invited to take an inside look at Tucson Water
the weekend of October 15th, 16th, and 17th.
We are celebrating National Earth Sciences Week.

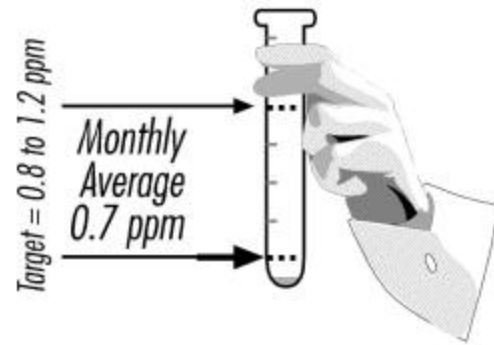
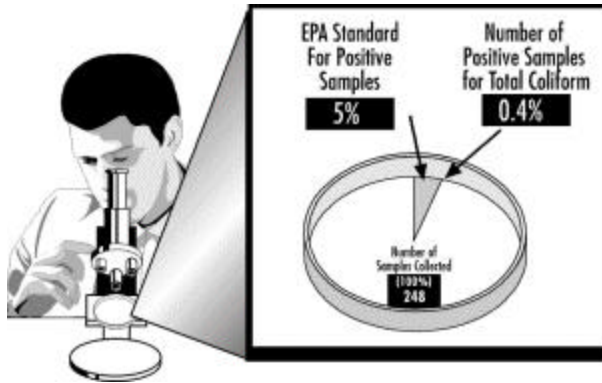
GROUNDWATER QUALITY REPORT - July 1999

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium	Average	50	40	47	33	30	30	31	41	48	38	38
(ppm)	Range	34-69	37-44	20-94	26-49	15-43	24-39	20-40	34-47	40-95	14-41	14-95
Mineral Content	Average	380	278	327	218	221	231	221	326	266	220	263
(ppm)	Range	179-493	243-307	184-628	185-280	163-287	184-264	160-282	274-480	212-375	211-225	160-628
Hardness	Average	180	123	148	92	96	107	102	160	97	83	116
(ppm)	Range	66-263	99-143	67-316	70-124	44-136	82-126	65-129	106-296	66-131	69-148	44-316
pH	Average	7.6	7.7	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.8
(units)	Range	7.3-8.0	7.6-7.9	7.1-8.4	7.4-8.2	7.4-8.2	7.0-8.1	7.3-8.3	7.2-7.9	7.5-8.1	7.7-8.0	7.0-8.4
Temperature	Average	86	86	86	87	86	85	86	86	88	87	86
(deg F)	Range	81-93	82-90	76-98	76-95	80-91	79-90	81-91	77-95	82-93	81-93	76-98

COLIFORM BACTERIA TESTING RESULTS - July 1999


Groundwater Quality Report

Chlorine Level Average



To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

One part per million (ppm) is the same as one second of time in 11.6 days.

	<p>The Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to: Customer Information P.O. Box 27210 Tucson, AZ 85726-7210</p>	<p>City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639</p> <p>Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor, llame al 791-4331.</p>
--	---	---